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# STANDARD MAP SYMBOLS

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C & R-PREP.

SOIL  
CONSERVATION  
SERVICE

U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

JANUARY 1965

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The map symbols contain the Soil Conservation Service symbols for use in the field by the Soil Conservation Service. These symbols are used most commonly by U. S. government agencies. Where deviations occur the symbols were simplified so field personnel may draw them with greater ease. In some instances the symbols were modified to fit special features. The size of the map symbols shown are adapted for use on such maps as farm and ranch plans, soil survey field sheets, soil maps for publication, and certain smaller scale maps. On other maps, the symbols should be drawn larger or smaller consistent with the map scale.

*Not every feature that occurs on the land need be shown on a map even though a symbol for it is included in this guide. Good judgment will dictate when it is necessary to identify features. A distinction between symbols for existing and planned conservation practices and recreational features is not necessary except where established procedures provide for their use.*

Colored symbols have been used in this booklet to represent some features. In general, the use of color for map symbols is limited to:

- (1) inking on soil survey field sheets where the soil scientist follows established procedures,
- (2) one or two hand-drawn copies of maps when colored symbols will add materially to the legibility of the map, and
- (3) maps for published soil surveys, watershed project maps, and other maps that are printed by the lithographic process.

## STANDARD MAP SYMBOLS

## WORKS AND STRUCTURES

## Roads

Good motor .....	
Poor motor or private .....	
Trail .....	

## Road designations

Interstate .....	or I-95
Federal .....	or US-71
State .....	or GA-6

## Railroads

Single track .....	
Multiple track .....	
Abandoned .....	

## Tunnels

Road .....	
Railroad .....	

## Bridges

General symbol .....	
Draw .....	
Foot .....	

## Ferries

Ferries .....	
---------------	--

## Fords

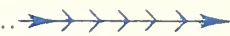
Road .....	
Trail .....	

## Dam .....

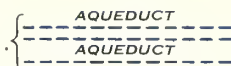


Canal or ditch (label) .....	
Canal, abandoned (label) .....	

Flume or syphon .....



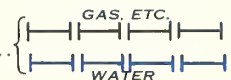
Aqueduct (label) .....



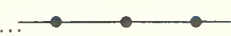
Aqueduct tunnel .....



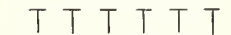
Pipeline (label) .....



Power-transmission line.....  
(Label "BURIED" if underground)



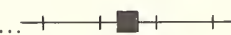
Telephone or telegraph line.....  
(Label "BURIED" if underground)



Buildings.....



Railroad station.....



School.....



Church.....



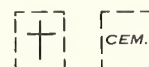
Cotton gin.....



Forest fire or lookout station.....



Cemetery.....



Fort.....



Gravel pit, open mine, or  
quarry (label)

Small .....



Large.....



Mine shaft.....



Mine tunnel

Opening .....



Showing direction .....



STANDARD MAP SYMBOLS

WORKS AND STRUCTURES - Cont'd.

Oil or gas wells.....	
Storage tanks (label).....	
Airport.....	
Airway beacon.....	
Lighthouse .....	
Breakwater, wharf, dock or jetty .....	
Tide or flood gate.....	
Diversion dam .....	
Small reservoir .....	
Dam and reservoir .....	
Stock pond, tank or charco.....	

Levee	
Without road.....	
With road.....	
Stream bank protection .....	
Fence <sup>1</sup> .....	
Corral.....	
Gate or cattle guard (label).....	

DRAINAGE

Perennial streams.....	
Intermittent streams.....	
Falls and rapids.....	
Lake or pond.....	

Intermittent lake or pond.....	
Closed or tile drain .....	
Drainage ditch (open drain).....	
Spring.....	
Well .....	
Wet spot.....	
Swamp or marsh..... (small isolated areas)	
Swamp or marsh (large areas)...	
Tidal marsh..... (salt or fresh water)	

Define  
See Note 2  
on Page 8


RELIEF


Escarpment, other than bedrock (dash unless soil boundary)	
Bedrock escarpment..... (dash unless soil boundary)	
Prominent hills or mountain peaks.....	
Small sink holes .....	
Delineable depression (dash unless soil boundary).....	
Sand wash (riverwash).....	
Mine dump .....	
Sand dunes (dune land).....	


<sup>1</sup>See note 1 on Page 8

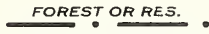
# STANDARD MAP SYMBOLS


## BOUNDARIES, MARKS, AND MONUMENTS


National, State, or  
Province line ..... 


County line ..... 


Town line (New England) or  
Civil Township line ..... 


National Forest or  
Reservation line (label)..... 

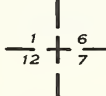
Small park, etc. (label)..... 

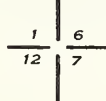
City, village, borough,  
or urban area ..... 


Land-grant line ..... 


U. S. Township line ..... 


Section line ..... 


Township and section  
corners, recovered ..... 


Township and section  
corners, assumed ..... 


Boundary monument..... 

S C D boundary..... 


Soil Survey Area boundary.....   
(takes precedence over  
county line)


Watershed boundary..... 


Land use boundary..... 

Soil boundary..... 

Inclusion tie..... 

Triangulation point or  
primary-traverse station ..... 

Permanent bench mark .....   
(and elevation)

Supplementary bench mark.....   
(and elevation)

# STANDARD MAP SYMBOLS

## SPECIAL SYMBOLS - SOIL SURVEY

Rock outcrop.....		Blowout .....		Define See Note 2 on Page 8
Stoniness		Moderate wind erosion .....		
Stony .....		Severe wind erosion.....		
Very stony .....		Severely eroded or gullied area...		
Gravel .....		Wind hummocks.....		
Chert fragments .....		Overblown soil.....		
Clay spot .....		Saline spot .....		
Clay butte .....		Gully.....		
Gumbo or scabby spot..... (truncated solodized solonetz)		Farmstead.....		
Sand spot .....		Aerial photograph match line.....		
Lava flow .....		Location of major soil samples.... (with number and complete identification on back of sheet)		
Made land .....				
Any located station or object..... (with explanatory note on back of sheet)				

## SPECIAL SYMBOLS - CONSERVATION PLAN

Farm, ranch, or other operations boundary.....		Important ridge top .....	
Ownership boundary.....		Stack yard.....	
Field or land use boundary .....		Farmstead.....	
Land capability, range, or woodland site boundary.....		Field number.....	
Range condition boundary.....		Field acreage.....	320 Ac.
Range condition.....EC, GC, FC, PC		Vegetative waterway.....	
		Special purpose plantings..... (label)	

# STANDARD MAP SYMBOLS

## SPECIAL SYMBOLS - CONSERVATION PLAN

	EXISTING	PLANNED		EXISTING	PLANNED
Fence <sup>1</sup> .....			Diversion or spreader dam .....		
Shelterbelt .....			Check dam or gully plug .....		
Stream bank protection..			Drop structure .....		
Dike or levee .....			Dam and reservoir .....		
Pipeline .....			Stock pond, tank or charco .....		
Flume or syphon .....			Spring development .....		
Canal (label) .....			Spring and trough .....		
Irrigation ditch .....			Trough .....		
Pickup ditch .....			Well (label) .....		
Diversion .....			Windmill .....		
Drainage or open drain..			Windmill and trough .....		
Closed or tile drain .....			Water tank (label) .....		
Terrace .....			Pump .....		
Tide or flood gate .....			Salt ground .....		
Division box or turnout..			Small reservoir .....		
Pipe riser .....					

<sup>1</sup> See note 1 on Page 8

# STANDARD MAP SYMBOLS

## SPECIAL SYMBOLS - RECREATION

	EXISTING	PLANNED		EXISTING	PLANNED
Amphitheater .....			Pipeline .....		
Attractive views .....			Picnic shelter .....		
Barrier .....			Septic Tank .....		
Bench .....			Disposal field .....		
Bonfire circle or barbeque pit .....			Spring, developed .....		
Bulletin board or sign ....			Buildings .....		
Closed or tile drain .....			Table .....		
Fence .....			Water tank (label) .....		
Fountain .....			Telephone line .....		
Garbage can .....			Power line .....		
Garbage pit .....			Tent site .....		
Gate .....			Trailer site .....		
Grill, fireplace, or stove..			Toilet (To be faced as shown)		
Hydrant .....			Trail or walk .....		
Hydrant-fountain .....			Well (label) .....		
Incinerator .....			Baseball diamond .....		


# STANDARD MAP SYMBOLS

## SPECIAL SYMBOLS - RECREATION Continued

	EXISTING	PLANNED		EXISTING	PLANNED
Boat dock .....			Ski lift or rope tow .....		
Boat ramp .....			Ski jump .....		
Small recreation area .... (label as to type)			Diving platform .....		
			Float .....		
Edge of usable area (label) .....					
Screen planting .....					

# STANDARD MAP SYMBOLS


## SPECIAL SYMBOLS - WATERSHED PROJECTS

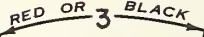
Watershed project boundary.....

Area benefited.....


Sub watershed or drainage area boundary .....

Drainage area in acres or square miles ..... D. A. 540 ac.


Drainage area controlled by structure .....

Damage reach.....


### Project Measures

Floodwater retarding structure.....


Stream channel improvement for:


Water supply structure.....


flood prevention.....

Multiple-purpose structure.....

drainage.....

Stabilization or sediment storage structure.....

Levee or dike.....

Irrigation canal.....

\* Indicate purpose of water supply: I - Irrigation,  
M - Municipal, FW - Fish and wildlife, R - Recreation

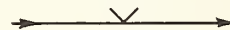
## NOTES

<sup>1</sup> When existing fences are combined with other symbols, they may be shown as follows:

Fence along both sides of good motor road, etc.



Fence along one side of ditch, etc.



When planned fences are combined with other symbols, they may be shown as follows:

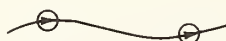
Planned fence along both sides of good motor road, etc.



Planned fence along one side of ditch, etc.



When fences or ditches, etc., are to be removed, they may be shown as follows:



<sup>2</sup> "Define" -- acres represented by each symbol should be specified, as follows:

up to 2 Acres

✓

5 to 6 Acres

✓✓✓

3 to 4 Acres

✓✓

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
Soil Conservation Service  
Washington, D. C. 20250

87 *file*

March 11, 1965

Advisory CART- 1

From: D. A. Williams, Administrator

Re: Standard Map Symbols for Service Use Nationwide

Attached is a copy of Standard Map Symbols for use throughout the Soil Conservation Service. These symbols were prepared by a study group we appointed to work on this project, and were reviewed by the state conservationists and their staffs. They cover most of the features used by the Service on maps under the following headings: (1) Works and Structures, (2) Drainage, (3) Relief, (4) Boundaries, Marks and Monuments, (5) Special Symbols - Soil Survey, (6) Special Symbols - Conservation Plan, (7) Special Symbols - Recreation, and (8) Special Symbols - Watershed Projects.

All of you who have occasion to use map symbols are urged to read the foreword on the inside of the front cover.

If you have need for additional copies, a limited number may be obtained from the Hyattsville Cartographic Unit, Soil Conservation Service, Federal Center Building, Hyattsville, Maryland 20781.

Attachment

*D. A. Williams*

STC (Sufficient copies for all soil scientists)  
TSC  
WD  
AC  
WUC  
TC





